

# NATIONAL AWARD FOR SMART GROWTH ACHIEVEMENT



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce the ninth annual National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. This award program recognizes communities that use the principles of smart growth to create better places.



## Qualifications

Applicants can be either a public-sector or private-sector entity, but all applications must include a public-sector partner. Projects, policies, or programs submitted for an award must show significant activity during the past five years. Applicants must address at least one of the following ten principles of smart growth:

- ◆ Mix land uses.
- ◆ Take advantage of compact building design.
- ◆ Create a range of housing opportunities and choices.
- ◆ Create walkable neighborhoods.
- ◆ Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
- ◆ Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas.
- ◆ Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities.
- ◆ Provide a variety of transportation choices.
- ◆ Make development decisions predictable, fair and cost-effective.
- ◆ Encourage community and stakeholder participation in development decisions.

Successful applicants will incorporate the principles of smart growth as described above to create places that respect community culture and the environment, foster economic development, enhance quality of life and public health, support equitable development, encourage green building, and provide affordable housing.



Photo: Tempe Transportation Center, Tempe, AZ.

## Categories

Up to five awards will be given. Winners will be selected from the following five categories:

**Programs, Policies, and Regulations.** Various programs, regulations, and/or policy initiatives, such as: innovative partnerships, planning processes, or funding mechanisms; parking policies; tax incentives; density bonuses; zoning ordinances; streamlined development approval; or smart codes to enhance redevelopment.

**Smart Growth and Green Building.** Development that combines smart growth and green building approaches as building design and materials are integrated with land use efficiency. Projects might include transit-oriented development that incorporates alternative energy, or brownfield redevelopment that uses site and building design techniques to reduce or eliminate stormwater runoff.

**Civic Places.** Public spaces or civic buildings that improve a community's sense of place while adding environmental and economic benefits, including parks, streets, squares, plazas, markets, waterfronts, transportation centers, and public buildings such as libraries, community centers, or city halls.

**Rural Smart Growth.** Rural areas that have used smart growth strategies to protect and support working lands while accommodating growth in downtowns and main streets, or small communities that have applied smart growth concepts to increase housing and transportation choice in existing areas.

**Overall Excellence in Smart Growth.** An outstanding comprehensive approach to smart growth, including built projects, supportive plans and policies, and effective political and community participation. This award will be made for the best overall approach to implementing smart growth on a variety of fronts.

## Criteria

**Smart Growth.** Entries must embody the principles of smart growth. Entries meeting this threshold will be judged on the following criteria:

**Effectiveness.** How well does the project, policy, or program advance the principles of smart growth? Is it part of a wider strategy to encourage smart growth?

**Outreach and Community Involvement.** To what degree does the project, policy, or program educate citizens and foster participation or encourage partnerships among local and state governments, other federal agencies, community groups, non-profit organizations, or businesses?

**Innovation.** Does the project, policy, or program break new ground? Does it represent a new approach to a common problem? Could this new idea be adopted elsewhere?

**Environmental and Community Impact.** How does the project, policy, or program improve environmental quality? How does it improve the community's quality of life?

## Application Process

Applicants must complete an entry form that details the specifics of their project, policy, or program and addresses the criteria above. To download an entry form, go to [www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards.htm](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards.htm). The web site also contains further information on the categories, criteria, and application process.

The application period is from February 8, 2010, to April 5, 2010. Applications must be received by the close of business on April 5, 2010. Awards will be presented at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC, in December 2010.

For questions concerning the National Award for Smart Growth Achievement, contact EPA Program Manager Abby Hall at 202-566-2086 or [hall.abby@epa.gov](mailto:hall.abby@epa.gov)  
[www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards.htm](http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards.htm)